Remarks

Claims 1-28, 30-34, 45-49, and 52-58 are pending. Claims 29, 35-44, 50, 51 and 59-65 are cancelled. Claims 25-28, 30-34, 45-49, and 52-58 are withdrawn as directed to a non-elected invention or species.

Election/Restriction

Applicants have elected, with traverse, claims 1-24 as directed to the species *Thuja plicate* Don., the polar solvent methanol and the nonpolar solvent dichloromethane. Claims 1–17 and 19–24 read on the elected species. Cancellation of the non-elected claims will be reviewed upon notification of allowable subject matter.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-5, 8-15, and 19-24 are rejected as obvious in light of Johannson et al. (2000; Wood Science and Technology 34: 389-401) in view of Diebold et al. (US 4,100,016), as evidenced by Johannson et al. (2000; Holzforschung 54: 246-254). Claims 1-24 are rejected as obvious over Johannson et al. (2000; Wood Science and Technology 34: 389-401) in view of Delong et al. (US 4,966,650), further in view of Naae et al. (US 6,207,808) and Diebold et al., as evidenced by Johannson et al. (2000; Holzforschung 54: 246-254).

The Examiner argues that the Wood Science and Technology paper teaches methanol extraction of tropolones from *Thuja plicata*. As previously noted, the Wood Science and Technology and Holzfoschung papers teach the **Soxhlet** method for extraction. The Soxhlet method is reputed to be the most efficient method of extraction since it involves the re-circularization and re-addition of solvent in a sequential series of extractions (i.e. several batches). This method, however, is not suitable for large-scale extractions such as those described in the invention. Notably, it is not **a** batch extraction process wherein **the** batch extraction mixture of solvent and plant materials is **maintained** under extraction conditions to extract tropolones into **the** batch of solvent. It is not obvious that the batch extraction method described in the invention could yield the large quantity of tropolones described in the invention.